

WINTER/SPRING 2016

KALA Reports

Quarterly Newsletter

President's Post

KALA members:

We are gearing up for the 2016-2017 KALA Board of Directors election and the 2016 KALA Annual Seminar. The Nominations Committee recently sent out the Call for Declaration of Candidacy. After all of the Declarations are received the ballots will be sent out in May. At the Annual Seminar in June the new Board of Directors will be introduced. If you are interested in running for a position on the Board of Directors but have questions or would like more information please contact anyone on the Board of Directors and we would be happy to talk with you more.

I am excited about the upcoming Annual Seminar, which will be held on Friday, June 10th. It's always a great day filled with CLE, shopping, prizes, and food! If you are interested in helping with the KALA Annual Seminar or have any suggestions for the Committee please contact Shelly Bird.

As I head into the final months of being the KALA President I think about some of the most important things that serving on a board has taught me: (1) Everyone should serve on a board of directors at least once in their lifetime. It gives you a whole new respect for how much time and how many people it takes to run an organization. There are so many little things that happen behind the scenes that I never would have known about before such as dealing with catering problems, location issues, speakers cancelling etc... It's given me a new respect for all the effort it takes to keep things running smoothly! (2) Being on a board is a great place to make and spend time with new and old friends. I've had the opportunity to be on the board with a lot of really great people, whom I hope to be friends with for many years. (3) There are a lot of people who are not on the board of directors that volunteer their time on a regular basis to help with all the things that come up. Thank you to all of you that have chaired and/or served on a committee, helped with elections, set up and cleaned up from meetings, and much more.

Thank you for allowing me to be President the past 3 years. I have enjoyed it and look forward to being a KALA member for many more years.

See you soon.

Treva Hansen, CP
KALA President

Save the Date!

KALA Annual Seminar

**June 10, 2016 - DoubleTree
by Hilton Hotel**

NALA Convention

**July 13 – 15, 2016 - Las
Vegas, Nevada**

KALA Kick Off Meeting 2016

September 6, 2016 - location TBA

What's Happening with the WBA?

~Christi Ramsey, ACP, 1st Vice President

It was another successful and busy year of collaboration with the Wichita Bar Association (WBA). KALA members were asked to assist, for the third year, with the Judge's Day Bike Ride. It was our second year of participating in the five job fairs arranged by Wichita Public Schools USD 259 and serving on WBA Committees.

We are excited and looking forward to Clean Slate Day sponsored by the WBA, KS Legal Services, the Office of the District Attorney and the City of Wichita. The WBA requested paralegal volunteers to support volunteer attorneys in providing legal services to community members seeking expungements of their criminal records.

This involvement shows we have wonderful members that are willing to commit their time on a volunteer basis and our role with the WBA is expanding. Thank you for all of your time, effort and willingness to jump in to make this relationship with the WBA a success.

KALA loves its volunteers!



2015-2016 WBA COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS

LAW IN EDUCATION

Annette Meece and Christi Ramsey

TECHNOLOGY

Jaclyn McCaleb and Christi Ramsey

If you are interested in joining a committee, please contact Christi Ramsey: cramsey@foulston.com.

September 24, 2015 Judge's Day Volunteers

Tami St. John

Andi Elmore

Suellen Petrillo

Mary Trece Potter

Katie Olsen

Christi Ramsey

Dacia Kennedy

2015 – 2016 Job Fair Volunteers

10.28.15 – Metro Blvd Alternative High School
Dee Falk

11.4.15 – Heights High School
Leeann LaMar

11.18.15 – North High School
Ana Rojas

12.9.15 – Southeast High School
Jaclyn McCaleb and Annette Meece

1.27.16 – Metro Meridian Alternative High School
Laura Vitanova and Dee Falk

2015 NALA Convention in Tulsa, Oklahoma



~Shelly Bird, NALA Liaison

NALA celebrated the 40th Anniversary by incorporating the 1940's at the Early Bird Reception, a 70's night at the Opening Night Reception and a Celebration Banquet that concluded the Convention and 40 years of growth and development of the paralegal profession.

Most of KALA's attendees this year attended the educational tracks, including Essential Skills and Legal Technology.

Our KALA table was a success! The attendees and had fun earning prizes at our "Spin to Win" board by answering questions about KALA, Wichita and Kansas. Kudos to Christi Ramsey and Andi Elmore for their "enthusiasm" while manning the table!



Making the LEAP

~Christi Ramsey, ACP, 1st Vice President

Change is hard. Stepping outside of your comfort zone is harder. My worst nightmare was speaking in front of hundreds of people. How did I get over this fear? I didn't, but I do feel better about it now. I made the decision to confront my fear by applying to NALA's LEAP program. When I was accepted, my feelings were mixed. I was excited, yet terrified; we were told we may be required to give a live presentation to the attendees at the convention if the NALA board selected our group.

I learned about the history of NALA, which made me proud of our profession. I also learned more about leadership and responsibilities, which provided me with a broader picture of NALA and its ideals, which could transfer to KALA. The time flew by as my group prepared our presentation to the Board.

My group and I supported each other's strengths and weaknesses. When it was time to present, we were as prepared as we could be and we won!! We were so excited, yet petrified. I had to face my biggest nightmare, and I found out my group felt the same way. We were told to just have fun with it; so we did. After it was over, we laughed about how we even forgot at times we had an audience; that was when I realized what the program was really about – establishing and maintaining relationships. LEAP wasn't just about pushing my comfort zone; it was about what we could do together! I am glad I took the opportunity and pleased that Angela Oberle applied for this year's class. I would encourage anyone who has thought of applying for this program to "Go for it!" LEAP is a great opportunity sponsored by NALA.



KALA CP/CLA Exam Study Group

~ Desiree Huff, Committee Chair

Currently, there is no study group. The study group met a couple of times, but due to many scheduling conflicts, the group decided to stop meeting.

Two members are planning to test in May 2016 and they are studying independently.

If anyone is interested in a study group, they can contact Desiree Huff by telephone: **316-253-2905** or by email: desireehuff1@att.net or desiree.huff@lewisbrisbois.com and she will see that they get a study partner.

KALA-4-Kids

~Katie Olsen, Committee Chair

This year we are focusing our efforts on Irving Elementary School located at 1642 N. Market in Wichita. We collected school supplies at our September and October meetings and the items were delivered to the school on October 7th. We collected winter gear items during our December meeting and those items were delivered on December 15th.

Irving Elementary is fully aware that all items donated came from members of KALA.

The support and generosity of our members in providing these donations made a difference for the children who needed the items provided.

2016 NALA Convention

NALA's 2016 Convention in Las Vegas will be here before you know it! Please contact NALA Liaison, Shelly Bird, at (316) 291-9770 or email at sbird@foulston.com with any questions or more details on the seminar itself. If you plan to go and have interest in rooming with other members to help with the cost, please let Shelly know. Hope to see you in Vegas!

KALA Membership Stats

Affiliate Members: 7

Student Members: 11

Sustaining Members: 2

Voting Members: 97

Total 2015-2016 Current Memberships:
117 KALA MEMBERS STRONG!

KALA KUDOS

THANKS!

While everyone else was on summer vacation,
I checked into my own little 'getaway'... the
Regional Hospital in Hutchinson.
Acting under the common misconception
that "*more is always better*", I opted for
the **Triple Bypass!!!** (As it turns out, that's
not quite as good a choice as the lotto triple
play...), but nevertheless, I did manage to
come out a winner!
Lounging around afforded me lots of time to
catch-up on my reading - reading that
included all the cards and letters received
from Family and Friends.
Falling squarely in the middle of those
categories
was the card from KALA,
totally unexpected and truly appreciated!!!
So THANKS!
(But next time I'm going on vacation with
y'all...)
- Eric Hoffman

KALA Board Elections

KALA board declaration for candidacy are out! Here is a current list of KALA board members, feel free to contact any of them with questions:

Treva Hansen, CP, President: thansen@hinklaw.com

Christi Ramsey, ACP, 1st Vice President: cramsey@foulston.com

Andi Elmore, CP, 2nd Vice President: andi_elmore@hotmail.com

Stephanie Scott, CP, Treasurer: sscott@foulston.com

Kourtney Berntsen, Secretary: kberntsen@morrislaing.com

Shelly Bird, ACP, NALA Liaison: sbird@foulston.com

Kim Gray, CP, Director: kimberly.r.gray@spiritaero.com

Dacia Kennedy, Director: dacia.kennedy@intrustbank.com

Mary Trece Potter, Director: mary.potter@intrustbank.com

Upcoming NALA Webinars

New and improved webinar platform and new lower pricing! 1.5 hour webinars: \$39 for Members and \$59 for Nonmembers • 2.0 hour webinars: \$49 for Members and \$69 for Nonmembers

March 7 - Medicare Liens and Set Asides - This course is beneficial to personal injury paralegals who are responsible for assisting with damage calculations and lien resolution. It offers a tutorial on how to determine if Medicare is involved, notify Medicare, keep track of the lien amount using medical bills and well-timed correspondence with MSPRC, determine related charges on the Explanations of Benefits. This course also offers suggestions for negotiating the lien, appealing the lien, and determining potential set-asides. It also introduces utilization of the Medicare's Recovery Portal as one option to track Medicare's interest. Handouts include sample letters for every Medicare correspondence to guide you through the process from start to finish, as well as a suggested timeline for when to send/receive each correspondence. If you want to develop an efficient strategy for dealing with Medicare liens, you need to take this course.

March 9 - An Analysis of Construction Defect Claims - The primary objective in this presentation is to provide an overview of the process of determining liability and the financial responsibility by the courts for the construction defects and resulting damages to building projects - primarily residential buildings. Our secondary objective is to demonstrate how and by whom this responsibility is funded and further how the building warranty and the typical business insurance policy factors into this process.

March 16 - Discovering the Potential for Social Media in Discovery - Given the ever-evolving nature of social media and the rapid expansion of each litigant's digital footprint, social media discovery has become an issue of paramount importance in litigation. Ranging from employment claims, traffic incidents, contract breaches, and global patent disputes, social media is increasingly recognized as an accepted form of discovery, with the potential for providing information that can be extremely valuable or damaging to the parties involved. This presentation will include an overview of various social networks, the data available from those networks, how to ethically and effectively obtain that data, and how to use that data in litigation. Additionally, the presentation will discuss various objections or obstacles to social media discovery and how to best overcome them.

March 18 - Non-Profit Law - A basic introduction on the formation of a company as a not-for-profit. Topics will include tax benefits, differences between for profit and not for profit companies, what businesses qualify to be a non-profit, and basic setup information such as formation and distributions of assets. We will also cover ways to identify whether an entity is a properly formed non-profit, what registration requirements may be required, and resources are available for consumers who want to learn more about a particular not-for-profit charity.